

statements he made that could have been misconstrued to mean that “politics” had caused the denial of the Hudson application.⁵¹⁷

At the time of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight hearings in January of 1998, several applicant tribe members and Four Feathers representatives were asked by the Committee to make affidavits attesting to their recollection of any remarks Skibine may have made at the Dec. 3, 1996, meeting. They did so, prompting several BIA personnel to make affidavits in which the BIA personnel disputed that any such remarks had been made.

J. The Opponent Tribes Contribute Heavily to Democrats in the 1996 Election Cycle

At the outset of this investigation, prior reviews of the facts surrounding the denial of the Hudson casino proposal already had revealed evidence of substantial contributions by the opponent tribes to the DNC and other Democratic organizations and campaigns in the months following the decision. In light of evidence that opponent representatives had discussed such contributions with Party officials in conjunction with seeking assistance on the Hudson matter, this Office committed significant time and effort to determining the full extent of such contributions by Hudson tribal opponents and their representatives, including an analysis of the amounts, timing and motivation for the contributions. This process included exploration of previous donations by those contributors and alternative explanations for their decisions to make donations to national Democratic organizations and campaigns in the aftermath of both the April 28, 1995, meeting at the DNC and the July 14, 1995, Interior decision on the Hudson application.

⁵¹⁷Skibine G.J. Test. at 87-88.